Shingo TAKEDA et al. Docket No. 010973

REMARKS

The above amendment is believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event there are any additional fees required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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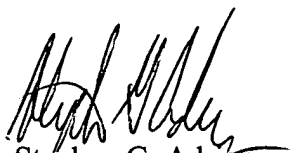

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 11-17 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein said water-borne urethane resin (1) is a water-borne urethane resin having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to 5 μm.

4. (Amended) A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein said water-borne urethane resin (1) is a water-borne urethane resin dispersed with a nonionic emulsifier having HLB of 10 to 18.

6. (Amended) A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein said associated type thickener (2) has a hydrophobic group located at at least one terminal and also has a urethane bond in a molecular chain.

7. (Amended) A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein said associated type thickener (2) has a structure represented by the following structural formula (I):

Ra-Ph- (I)

wherein R is a C_1 to C_9 alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl group; a represents an integer of 1 to 3; and Ph represents a phenyl ring residue.

8. (Amended) A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein said water-borne urethane resin (1) contains (A) a polyoxyalkylene glycol having at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of

ethylene oxide and/or (B) a one terminal polyoxyalkylene glycol having at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide.

11. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9 [or 10], wherein said nonionic emulsifier has a structure represented by the following structural formula (I):

Ra-Ph- (I)

wherein R is a C_1 to C_9 alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl group; a represents an integer of 1 to 3; and Ph represents a phenyl ring residue.

12. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in [any one of claims 9 to 11] claim 9, wherein said associated type thickener is an associated type thickener which has a hydrophobic group located at at least one terminal and also has a urethane bond in a molecular chain.

13. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in [any one of claims 9 to 12] claim 9, wherein said water-borne urethane resin is a water-borne urethane resin which contains (A) a polyoxyalkylene glycol having at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide and/or (B) a one terminal polyoxyalkylene glycol having at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide.

14. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in [any one of claims 9 to 13] claim 9, wherein steam temperature is from 70 to 120°C.

15. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in [any one of claims 9 to 14] claim 9, wherein steam treatment time is from 10 seconds to 20 minutes.

16. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in [any one of claims 9 to 15] claim 9, which further comprises drying at a temperature of 80 to 150°C after heat-sensitive coagulation with steam.

17. An artificial leather obtained by the method of [any one of claims 9 to 16] claim 9.